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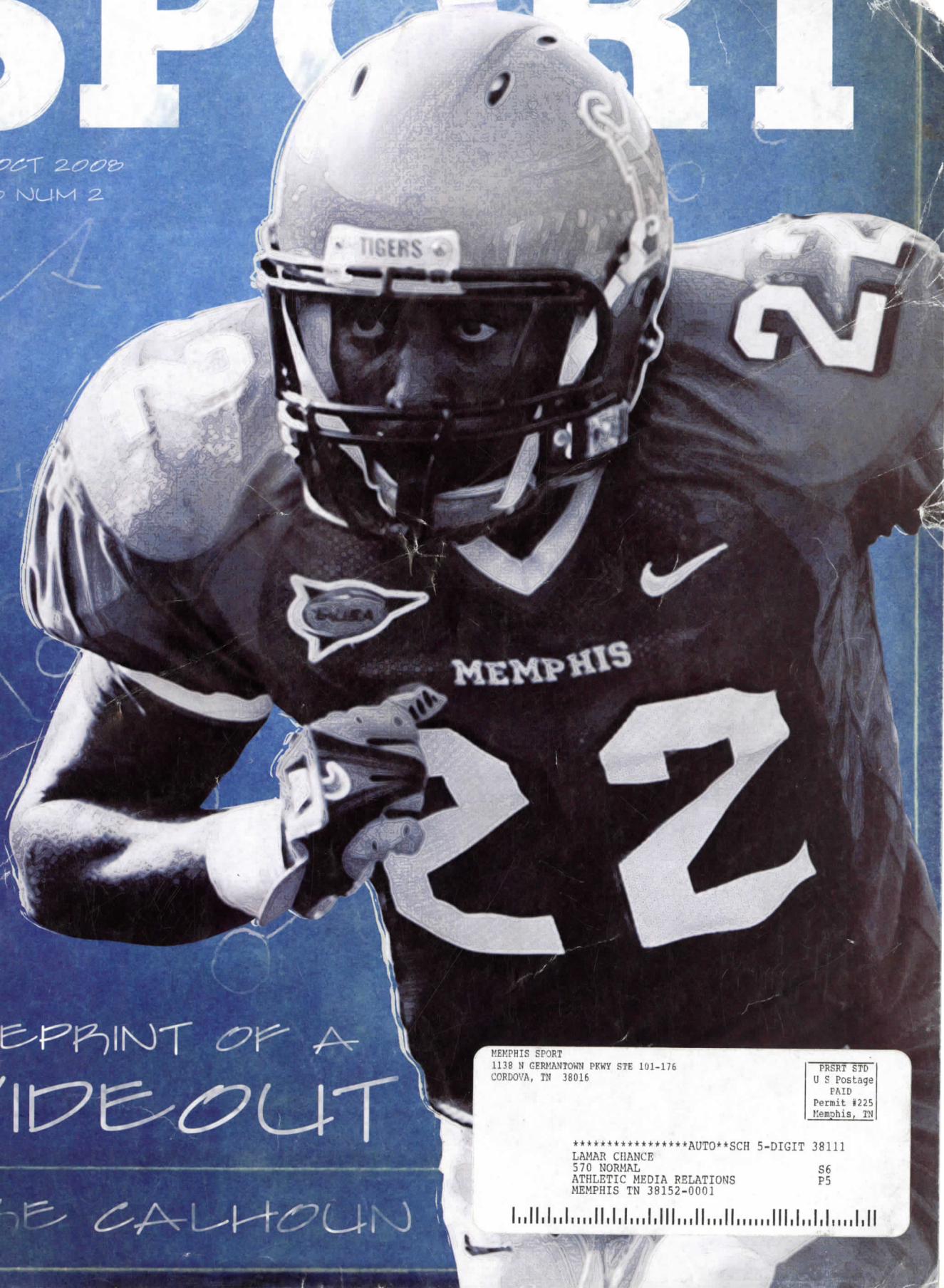
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MEMPHIS SPORT

SEPT/OCT 2008
VOL 3 NUM 2



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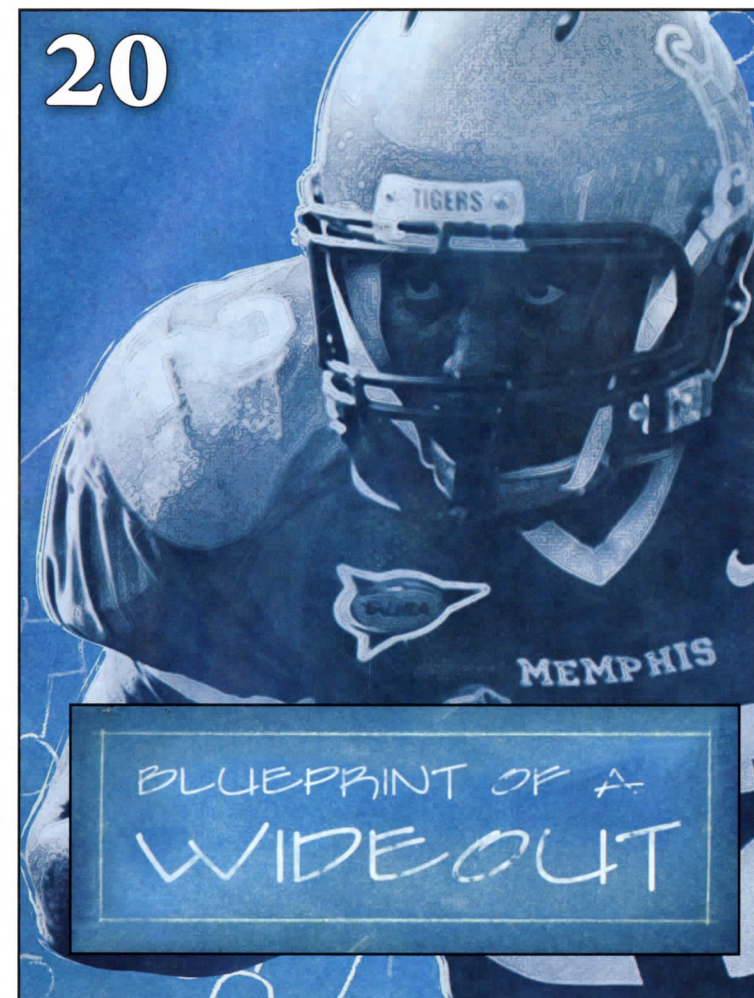
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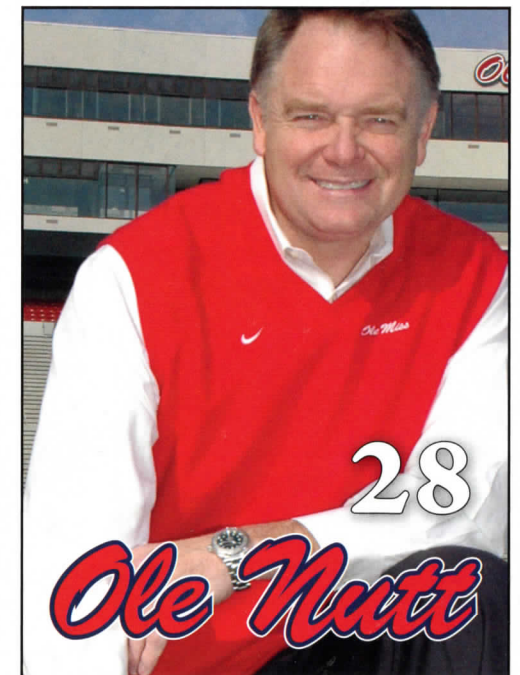
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The obligatory rant.

FACTS AND PREDICTIONS

Football season is here, so it must be time for some predictions. As you all know, my last predictions were startlingly correct. In our Jan/Feb '08 issue I predicted that Pau would play for an NBA title and Derrick Rose would play for the Bulls. I predicted that Coach Cal would not leave Memphis. I also predicted that Tommy West would give the Tiger football schedule an upgrade and he did that.

This time of the year everybody and their brother has an opinion on the upcoming season. I don't give predictions that are opinion. My predictions are fact. Cold, hard facts. I am so confident in my predictions, I am going to make them with half my brain tied behind my back.

- Five teams from C-USA will finish with losing records – UAB, Tulane, Marshall, Rice and SMU. What the heck. Let's make it six. Throw UTEP in there, too.

- Arkansas will lose to Ole Miss by two touchdowns.

- I will get at least 20 angry emails for featuring Houston Nutt in this issue.

- Tennessee will lose to Tulsa in the Liberty Bowl. They will not be happy about it. I will be.

- Phillip Fulmer will not be subpoenaed while he is in town.

- Memphis will beat UAB for the first time in the 21st century. I repeat – MEMPHIS WILL FINALLY BEAT UAB.

- Memphis will not lose to Tennessee. They also will not lose to Southern Cal, Ohio State or Florida.

- Memphis will play in a bowl game again. The bowl will have a ridiculous name. Memphis will lose.

- Tiger fans will demand that Tyreke Evans gets a shot at quarterback.

- Vince Young will spend some time on the bench watching Kerry Collins play quarterback.

- I predict that a portion of these predictions will be wrong, which makes them right – RIGHT?

- The Big East will not come calling for the Tigers, nor will an on-campus stadium.

- The winner of the Southern Heritage Classic will be the halftime show.

– Mike Bullard, publisher

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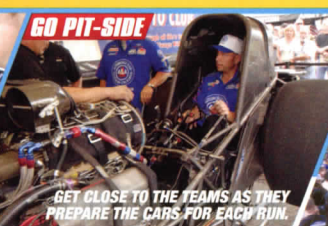
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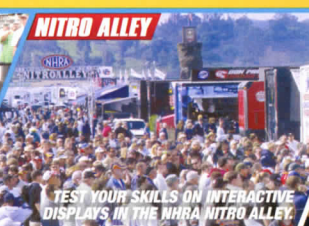
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NOTHIN' BUT NET

Highlights from the regular features at www.memphisport.net



STAFF BLOGS

– From “Mack Attack is back?” posted on Jan Michael Hartelust’s Gametime:

“I never really understood the transfer to begin with. Yes, his playing time dropped last season and he wasn’t generally on the floor late in games that were still in doubt, but with three starters gone, the situation seemed ideal for Doneal... The Tigers are bringing in a phenomenal recruiting class, but chemistry and experience are going to be a key for continued success and Mack has both..”



COMMENTS

– From Memphis Sport reader “Kyle” in response to Steve O’Dell’s “Ole Miss Football” blog:

“Any school can top the Grove before and after the game. I had just as much fun socially at my high school football games as I did on the multiple occasions I have visited the Grove. And my high school had more speed and talent on the field and no one dressed like they were attending a wedding to go watch them play.”

Read all the latest Jack Eaton poems, staff blogs, and Memphis Sport Game Reports at www.memphisport.net. Miss an issue of Memphis Sport? Check out the entire back catalog of issues available for free at www.memphisport.net.



JACK’S RHYMES

– The poem “Memphis TV News” by Jack Eaton:

Check any Memphis station at 10 and I’ll make you a bet
That this is just about what you’ll get.

A shooting in South Memphis and then for good measure
Another one plus a car jacking somewhere in Frayser.

A home invasion in Germantown and likely as not
A guy from Collierville is robbed in the Kroger parking lot.

There are meth labs galore and right in between
Gang graffiti where it simply should not be seen.

The cops are working hard but only a dunce
Could think they could be in two places at once.

I’m as sick of it as you are and it’s such a pity
But that’s what’s happening right here in River City.

Now, I know this won’t cut the rate of crime
But I wish TV5 would give Jarvis a little more time...



CHATTER

Real letters (or emails) from real people



ERRORS FOUND!?!

Noted in reading Jack’s page: [July/Aug 2008]
Dr. C.C. Humphreys’

last name is misspelled. Following the 1955-56 season, Coach Eugene Lambert left to take the head coaching position at Alabama (not Arkansas). Jim Hockaday’s last name is misspelled. Thanks - Cecil S.

PUBLISHER: I never like to admit an error, but we certainly missed those. I don’t know how those slipped by our team of fact finders and statistical editing geniuses, but I am sure that those are the only errors you will find in that issue.

ERRORS FOUND - PART 2

Loved the article on the Peterson brothers [July/Aug 2008]. But you apparently messed up and forgot to



mention where in Memphis they train. I am very curious. - Jeffrey G.

PUBLISHER: Ok. That wasn’t a mistake. That wasn’t an error. It was just an omission. But of course we should have mentioned that they train at Prize Fight (www.prizefightpromoters.com) in Southaven, MS.

ERRORS FOUND - PART 3

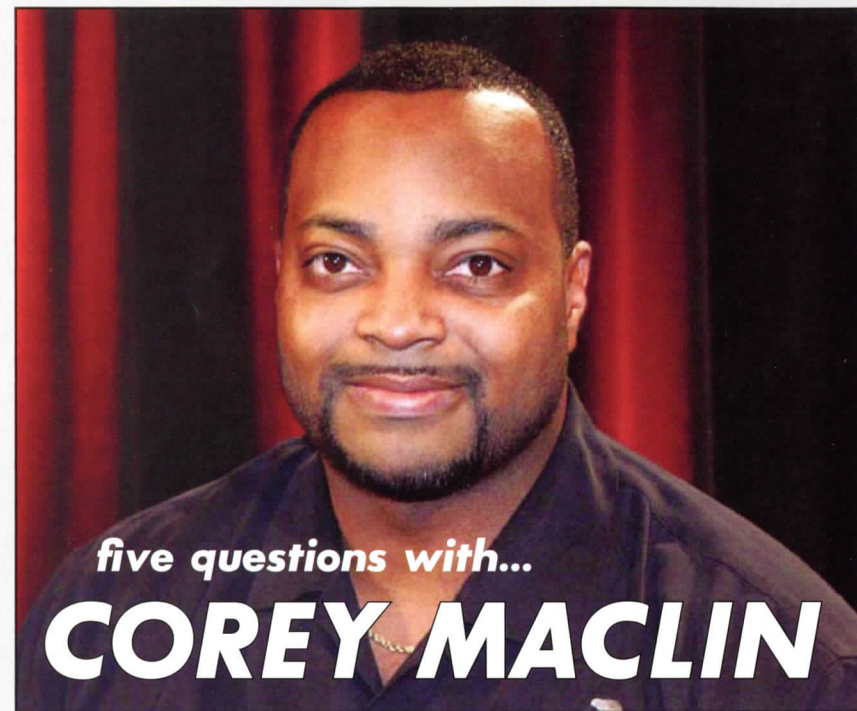
After reading the Jerry Lawler article, I found two mistakes. Jerry Lawler beat Curt Hennig (not Kurt) for the world title in 1988 instead of 1978. - Scott J.

PUBLISHER: Enough is enough. Is that all you people care about? OK. Occasionally, we make some errors. Get over it. Or better yet, don’t get over it. Find some more errors. The first 10 people that can find three (or more) errors in this issue will win a \$25 Gift Card to Sportsman’s Warehouse. Good luck.

And to everyone else out there, do you love Memphis Sport or hate it? Send me an email at mike@memphisport.net and let me know what is on your mind.

STARTING FIVE

Five lists of five.



Corey MacLin is the local Memphis Wrestling promoter, announcer and sometimes in-ring competitor.

1 How did you get started in wrestling?

In 1990, I was the WLOK promotions director and program director. We did a special promotion one Monday night where you could bring your church bulletin to the Coliseum and get in wrestling for free. I did the ring announcing that night, and they asked me to come back and do it every week.

2 Who would win in a battle royal between you, Lance Russell, Dave Brown, and Kamala "The Ugandan Giant"?

I would have to go with Lance. He is my guy.

3 Do you see any of your children ever being in the wrestling business?

I have six kids. Five boys and a girl. I like to say I have a basketball team and one cheerleader. It is weird though. My little girl, Carmen, is probably the most likely to do something in wrestling. When I first started doing the wrestling show, I remember coming home and

asking Corey Jr. if he saw Dad on TV, and he would tell me he watched *Power Rangers*.

4 You made national news when you filed a lawsuit against Vince McMahon and WWE for their involvement in pulling Jerry Lawler from his scheduled match vs. Hulk Hogan at FedExForum. What did you do with the money you received from the settlement of the suit?

Oh, my gosh. I wish it was enough so I could retire. I only got about enough to go eat a meal at Ruth's Chris.

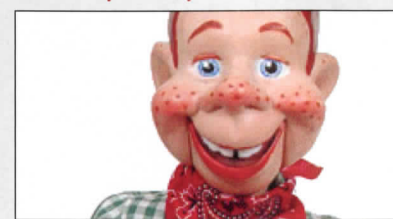
5 What can people expect on the new Memphis Wrestling show?

We have a deal for the next few years to air on MyNetwork 50 at 11 am on Saturday mornings. Believe it or not, part of the new show will be taped every week in studio at the main library. Tommy Warren at the library and Johnny Lewis at MyNetwork 50 have both been really helpful in getting everything going. I'm excited. We have upgraded our level of talent. Not that our wrestlers haven't been good, we are just bringing in more great names that you might remember from WWE and TNA. Our fans deserve it.

The first five inductees into the Li'l Penny Hall of Fame



1. Howdy Doody



2. Fozzie Bear



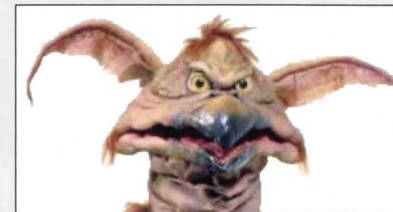
3. Hermey, the Misfit Elf



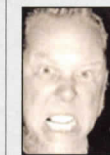
4. Triumph, the Insult Comic Dog



5. Salacious Crumb



MOTORSPORTS



Top five motorsports songs

1. "Fuel" - Metallica
2. "I Love NASCAR" - Cletus T. Judd
3. "The Distance" - Cake
4. "I Can't Drive 55" - Sammy Hagar
5. "The Intimidator" - The Charlie Daniels Band



Top five motorsports movies

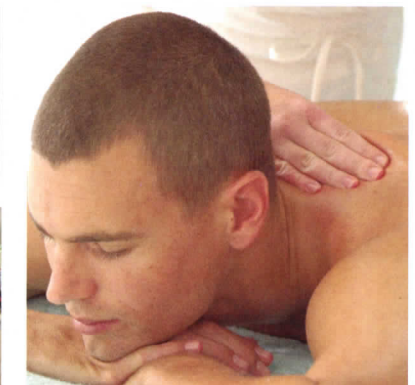
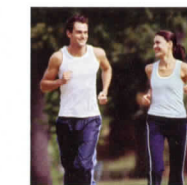
1. *Six Pack*
2. *Cannonball Run*
3. *Days of Thunder*
4. *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*
5. *Death Race 2000*



Five motorsports events we would like to see in the Olympics

1. Drag Racing
2. Demolition Derby
3. Cannonball Run
4. Wheelstand Competitions
5. Ice Racing

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BRING IT ON

A simple formula - one cheerleader, questions and answers.

Ashley

Cheer for the Kids

by KEVIN CERRITO
photo by JOE MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

What is Cheer for the Kids? It is a cheer and dance competition that benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Our goal is to give kids a way to be involved in fundraising and the community, while doing something they are trained to do. This year's event is October 25th at Arlington High School. You can register, donate, and volunteer at www.cheerforthekids.com.

How much has the event raised? We gave \$3,000 last year. We are hoping to triple it this year.

What do you do for a living? I'm a physical therapist at Rehab, Etc.

How much cheering experience do you have? I cheered in junior high and high school. I was on the pom squad at Memphis. I've danced since I was four. I was on the dance team for the arena football Pharaohs, and I danced six years for the Grizzlies.

Who is your favorite former Grizzlies player? Stromile Swift.

Who is your favorite former Pharaohs player? I definitely couldn't tell you that one.

What was your most memorable moment with the Pharaohs? Walking around The Pyramid with real camels.

Dancing with the Stars or So You Think You Can Dance? So You Think You Can Dance.

Milk or O.J.? O.J.

Mayo or Mustard? Neither.

Will you be back at the Forum in 50 years as a member of the Grizzlies Grannies and Grandpas? Strangely enough, I was the oldest on the team since the very first year. So, the other girls always teased that I would be the first to go straight from the dance team to Grizzlies Grannies. I would do it though. For the fun of it.



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CAMPBELL FOOTBALL



ALL-STARs

The very best of prep athletics.

by JAN MICHAEL HARTELUST



M Hutchison Athletic Director Catherine Chubb calls **MEG STEPHENSON** a leader, dedicated athlete and selfless competitor. The senior middle blocker and outside hitter has the accolades to back up the talk with a Best of Preps All-Metro selection along with Division II-AA West All-Region First Team and Division II-AA West All-Tournament Team.

M **CHRIS CAMPBELL**, a 6-4, 190lb two-star pro-style quarterback prospect according to Rivals.com, recently committed to play his college football at the University of Southern Mississippi. Campbell is excited about the opportunity to play at Southern Miss, but also says he is focused on helping his Briarcrest team win the state championship.



M **BROOKE DAVIS** was not only team MVP in both her junior and senior years, but was also named to the *Commercial Appeal* Best of Preps team three times as well as first team All-State as a senior. Davis, a five-time All-Chickasaw Conference player at Southaven High School signed a letter of intent to play for Christian Brothers University in the spring.

M **MARY ELISABETH TIPTON**, an All-Region and Best of Preps All-Metro in both cross country and track, is an outstanding athlete who Varsity Cross Country and Track Coach Bethany Stover says, "leads her team through the hardest workouts and provides leadership both on and off the field." Tipton has qualified for the state championships in cross country and track.



If you are in high school athletics and have an achievement worth noting or know someone who does, email your accomplishments along with a photo to allstars@memphisport.net, and you just may see your face here in an upcoming issue.

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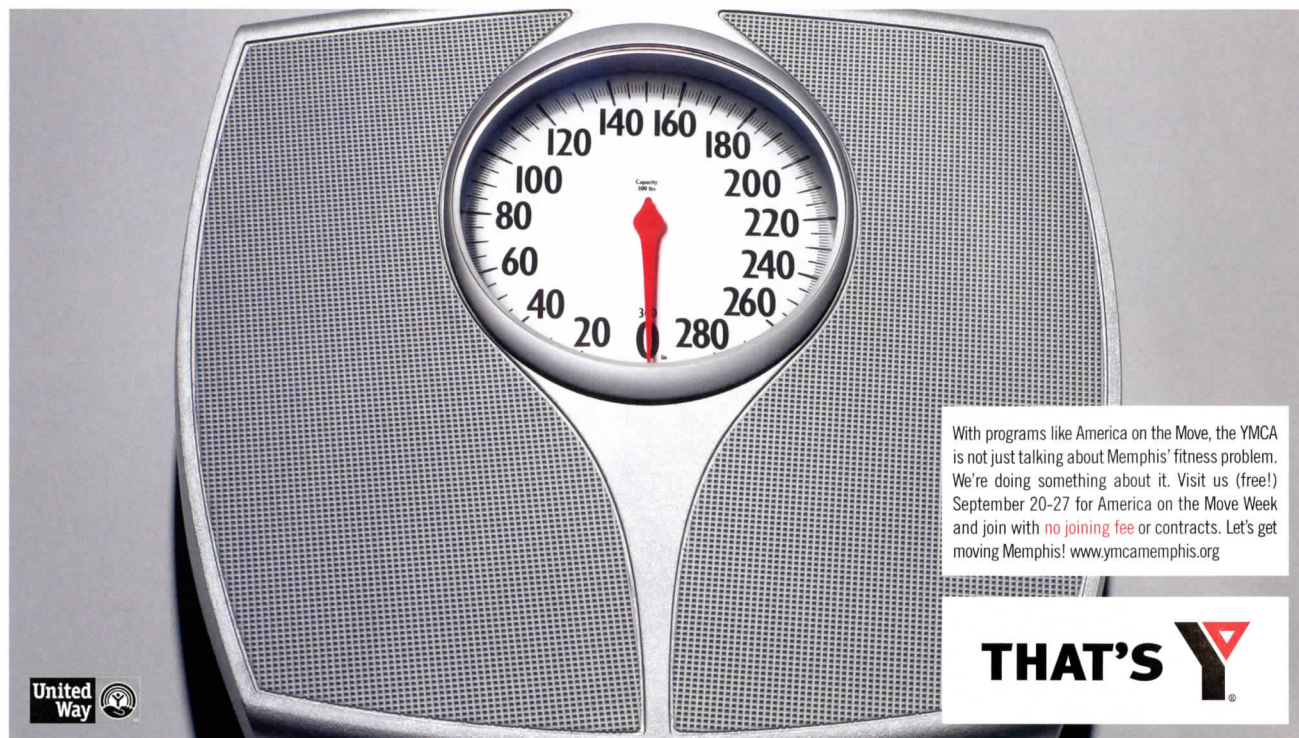
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TEAM WORK

Area sports teams playing at a high level.

NOT SO LITTLE GIANTS

by JAN MICHAEL HARTELUST
photo courtesy IN FOCUS ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY



“Most 12-year-olds are capable of making plays in about a FIVE-FOOT RADIUS. I wanted to find kids who could make plays in a 20-FOOT RADIUS, and I think I’ve got that.”

If someone from the Memphis area were asked to name the area's most dominant sports teams, the most common response would probably be University of Memphis basketball or maybe even Melrose football. But then, most people don't know the Germantown Giants.


This is not a nationally ranked Division I NCAA basketball team. It's not even a prep powerhouse. No, this is an almost unbeatable 12-year-old competitive baseball team that is sweeping across this country and winning nearly every tournament it enters. The list of this year's accomplishments is beyond impressive. The Giants have won nine of 13 tournaments, including the 12U Super Series National Championship and a runner-up finish at Cooperstown Dreams Park, a tournament that included 98 teams and several top-ranked teams from all corners of the nation.

At least part of reason for the success of the team has to do with its make-up and how each player was evaluated and selected. Head Coach Mike Fitzsimmons says he looked for a slightly different kind of player when putting his team together. “I was looking for bigger, stronger athletes,” Fitzsimmons says. “Most 12-year-olds are capable of making plays in about a five-foot radius. I wanted to find kids who could make plays in a 20-foot radius, and I think I’ve got that.”

Fitzsimmons certainly seems to have found those players, including Shane “Sugar” Tucker, who is only in his first full year of competitive baseball, but is drawing rave reviews from almost all who watch him play.

Fitzsimmons' idea has indeed paid huge dividends. His Giants got a chance to showcase their talents for the entire country from right here in Memphis when the inaugural National Youth Baseball Championship came to First Tennessee Fields August 21-24. This monumental event, started by Chicago White Sox owner Eddie Einhorn and backed by Major League Baseball, included the winners of a number of different leagues to determine a true national champion of what Fitzsimmons calls “straight baseball.”

“In the Little League World Series, they play on 200 foot fences, they pitch from 46 feet, and they don't steal or lead off,” says Fitzsimmons. “We play on 250 foot or 275 foot fences, pitch from 50 feet, and we steal and lead off, so it's a very different game.”

Fitzsimmons and his Germantown team hope it's a game in which they can continue to be giants. 

Memphis is full of talented sports teams from all walks of life. If your team is one of those, send us some information about your team along with some photos to teamwork@memphisport.net and your team may just be the next one profiled here.

A Sports Bar Review: by ROBERT BIGGS Brookhaven Pub

What makes a great sports bar? That's easy—TVs, beer, home team support, service and great food. How many sports bars get it right? Not as many as we would like. In the quest for the perfect Memphis sports bar, I took a trip to Brookhaven Pub & Grill.

HOMETOWN SUPPORT

FoodForum Mantra: A great sports bar should represent the hometown teams. All local games should be shown on the bar TVs with blaring volume.

When you walk into Brookhaven, you are blinded by local team paraphernalia—jerseys, autographs, and everything in between. Schedules are posted everywhere. Local games are always on the biggest of TVs. Heck, one of the owners is a Tiger Ambassador, and I firmly believe we should support the ones who support our teams.

SERVICE

FoodForum Mantra: A great sports bar must have great service. You shouldn't have to take your eyes off the TV to have to ask for another beer.

Bartenders citywide know that I am a bartender in a local establishment, and they always take exceptional care of me. Nevertheless, I decided it would not be fair if I went on my own judgment to score every bar on service. So, I asked a friend of mine, Jimmy, how he felt

about the service. He said it is perfect most of the time, but it has slipped on ridiculously busy game days.

ATMOSPHERE

FoodForum Mantra: There should be so many TVs that even if your eyes do wander after a pretty girl in Tiger blue, her boyfriend should not be able to tell if you are looking at her or the TV right behind her.

When I asked people what they look for in a sports bar, their immediate answer is always, "Well, the TVs of course." Brookhaven has 8.5 TVs. (Non-HDTVs get a half point. That's because non-HDTVs provide half the picture.)

FOOD

FoodForum Mantra: A great sports bar should have great food. Not necessarily diver scallops in a lemon grass reduction, but at least something deep-fried and covered with sauce.

The food at Brookhaven is fantastic. They do many business lunches during the day, so they must keep a good, diversified menu. I had the deep-fried roast beef sandwich with french fries and a side of cheese sauce. It was the most amazing artery-clogging experience I have ever had. They don't have hot wings, however. What kind of sports bar does not have hot wings?

BEER SELECTION

FoodForum Mantra: A great sports bar must have a great beer selection. This includes game day specials, and the need to be able to order a Chimay, if you are going to celebrate a game like November 9, 1996. (If you are not familiar with the game played on this date, then please pack up your hunting gear and move to East Tennessee.)

Brookhaven has many of my favorite beers. Their beer list not only itemizes their beers, but also tells you little tidbits about their beer selections. (Smirnoff Ice is a "wannabe beer.") They have eight beers on tap, one of which is Woodchuck Cider. So, let me rephrase that. They have seven beers on tap.

OVERALL RATING

Brookhaven Pub & Grill sets the bar high (pun intended) for what a sports bar should be. Throw in some hot wings and a few more beers on tap and this could have been a perfect score. Brookhaven earns 4.5 balls out of 5.

Brookhaven Pub & Grill
695 West Brookhaven Circle
Memphis, TN 38117
901-680-8118



Memphis Sport's ace sports bar reviewer takes on one sports bar each issue. Send us your suggestions for the next FoodForum review to foodforum@memphisport.net.

Drink This: BLUE ROAR

Each issue Memphis Sport spotlights a team themed food or drink item. Make the drink before the next big game or try it for a limited time only at Brookhaven Pub & Grill. The first 50 customers who order it will receive this limited edition Blue Roar shot glass.

Send your food and drink suggestions to foodforum@memphisport.net.

FOODFORUM RECIPE: BLUE ROAR

1.25oz grape vodka
.25oz blue curacao
Sweet and sour

In a shaker glass, fill with ice, add all ingredients, shake and pour into a shot glass. Drink, but only if you are over 21 and not driving. Roar.



— To say — WE WROTE THE BOOK ON ORTHOPAEDICS WOULD NOT BE ENTIRELY ACCURATE. IT IS ACTUALLY A FOUR-VOLUME SET.



Not that long ago, a man looking somewhat ragged and having what appeared to be his family in tow, walked through the doors of Campbell Clinic and made his way directly to the nurse's station. Raising

his heavily bandaged hand high in the air, he declared in a thick South American accent that he had just arrived in Memphis that morning after flying 3,000 miles and would like to see Dr. Campbell immediately.

Having been deceased nearly 30 years, Dr. Campbell was unfortunately not available. But the nurse assured him that the physicians who were in the office that day were more than qualified to treat him.

When asked about his insurance, the man laughed incredulously. When asked about his prior medical history, the man gave the nurse a phone number of an office in Peru.

A little background check seemed to be in order.

It turned out that the phone number was for the man's personal physician. And the man turned out to be the largest exporter of bananas in the entire world.



Frustrated with the fact that his injured hand was not healing properly, the Peruvian Banana King had

asked his doctor where the foremost orthopaedic specialists in the world could be found. Without hesitation, the doctor recommended Campbell Clinic. So the man immediately boarded his private jet, flew non-stop to Memphis, and proceeded directly to Campbell Clinic.

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It follows then that all orthopaedists in one way or another learn their craft from Campbell Clinic. And whom would you rather have as your doctor, the teacher or the pupil?

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Ole Nutt

by KEVIN CERRITO photos courtesy UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

There are football coaches, and then there are SEC football coaches. For the past few years, **Ole Miss** has had a football coach. That all changed last November when the **Rebels** closed the book on the Ed Orgeron era, and hired former Arkansas head coach **Houston Nutt**. **Ole Miss** now has an SEC football coach. Born and raised in the state directly west of the Hernando De Soto Bridge, Nutt has taken his charismatic personality and passion for football with him to **Mississippi**, leaving a hard to please fan base behind.

How does your switch from Arkansas to Ole Miss compare to your transfer as a player from Arkansas to Oklahoma State?

Well, as a player you look at things through a 19-year-old's eyes. That's a lot different. As a coach, there hasn't been much change actually. You're in the SEC. You're in the Western Division. You are in the best conference in America. Best tailgating in America. Best stadiums in America, all full. Competition is fierce. All that is the same. What's different is different colors, different names on the back, different streaks. It is just exciting.

In your introductory press conference, you said the way

you spell fun is "W-I-N." How do you spell win?

Same way. W-I-N.

What game is more important for you to win this year, Arkansas or Mississippi State?

They're all important. I'm learning pretty quick it's a pretty big rivalry between Ole Miss and Mississippi State. Being in the same state, that is huge. That's all I've heard about is how Mississippi State beat Ole Miss at the end of last year to go to a bowl game. Um, I can't help but think about October 25th (at Arkansas) because that is where I'm from. But, there is going to be a lot of ball being played

before that one happens. So, I'm not really concerned about that one right now.

What do you say to a player to convince him to come to Ole Miss?

I try to tell him that you are in the best conference in America. You have a lot of tradition at Ole Miss. We have one of the most beautiful campuses in the world. If you look at the history, Ole Miss has won here in the past. They have won national titles. They have won SEC titles. Eli Manning has been here. Archie Manning. Deuce McAllister. There are names they can relate to like Patrick Willis in the NFL. Of course, young people are always looking to go play on Sundays. So, you use the





history. The tradition will help sell. And, you come in here and look at the facilities. They are Class A, number 1. We have a beautiful indoor facility, one of the best locker rooms, one of the best meeting rooms, one of the best offices. You have an academic center that FedEx gave us. The center puts you directly with one-on-one tutors and computers. The way it is set up here, if you don't get a degree, it is your own fault. You can really sell that very very easily.

Do you have a favorite tradition at Ole Miss?

I think it is going to be the walk through the Grove. From just the little bit I tasted of it when Patrick Willis and Eli Manning walked me through the Grove the first time in the spring, I think that is going to be it.

Do a survey on every player and ask them how Coach Nutt treated them... as a person.

What traditions do you hope to add or build on?

Winning. We want to get back to going to bowl games. These young men have never experienced bowl games. Especially the last four years. When you go into a team room and say "Hey, how many of you have gone to a bowl game?" and no one can raise their hand, that tugs at your heart. You want to push and do everything you can to give them a road map to success and let them experience that.

What is on the road map to success in the SEC? What do you have to do in order to win in the conference?

You have to do two or three things. One, you have to play a full 60 minutes. It's two chinstraps and there are no plays off. You have to make fewer mistakes than the opponent. You have to take care of the ball. Everyone has to execute to perfection each play. Everyone has a job to do and your job has to be carried out in an all-out effort each play.

What are the differences between Fayetteville and Oxford?

Oh, man. I like our location better for recruiting. This is a very unique small town in the deep south. I recruited the same area when in Fayetteville. Fayetteville is beautiful, but the people were further away. Further to Atlanta.

to go check the record. And, ask them how many individuals have truly left the program. That is the first thing. Ask them how many have graduated. Go back and do a survey on every player and ask them how Coach Nutt treated them... as a person. Not only on the field, but off the field. Go ask them if I ever put a player out there that was hurt. Ask them did I come to their

Everyone has a job to do and your job has to be carried out in an all-out effort each play.

Further to Alabama. I'm recruiting the same states, but I'm much closer. Closer to Florida. Closer to Alabama. Closer to Georgia. That part of it is exciting.

You were at Arkansas for ten years. What else have you done for that long in your life?

I've been married going on my 25th year, silver anniversary.

Ten years from now, do you see Ole Miss and Memphis still opening up the season against each other?

I hope so. I don't have much to do with scheduling. The scheduling has already been put in place for the next six to seven years. So, I'm hoping. I like the rivalry. I like the way it is setup because we are not that far away from each other. Memphis has done a good job the last few years.

What do you say to your critics who claim, among other things, that you don't make good calls in crunch time and you run off players and coaches?

Well, you got to go back and ask them

room if there was a death in the family at 2:30 in the morning. Go ask them point blank, in crunch time, when we are playing against LSU. Go ask them what happened in Baton Rouge. Then, go ask them how many times Arkansas has been in the SEC championship game. Then, look at the next ten years and see how many times they make it to the championship game. That's what you got to do.

You have been successful at getting players to the next level. Who on this year's squad has a chance at the NFL?

That's another thing you need to tell them. Ask them which coach had the most drafted players from Arkansas. How many first rounders. Put that on there too.

This year, if we stay healthy, there could be quit a few. You just don't know about injuries. Because they didn't win a game last year (in the SEC), there is still a lot of questions. There are questions about toughness. There are questions about finishing. It is hard to pick out a number and say they are going to the NFL.

Do you own the NCAA Football '09 Xbox 360 game with Darren McFadden on the cover?

No.

You pushed for the new 84-foot wide by 48-foot tall high-definition video board at Vaught-Hemingway. How big is the TV at your house?

Oh, I think it is 48 inches. 50 inches maybe.

Almond Joy or Mounds?

Almond Joy.


What is your opinion on Colonel Reb?

I don't have much to draw from on that because I wasn't here when everything went down. I don't know.

Is it important for a team to have an on-the-field mascot?

I think it is important that you have a mascot. I think it is. I am more concerned about our players and making sure we step the right ways and know the plays. I let the chancellors and athletic directors handle that part of it. One thing I do know is that we are the Rebels.

What does Hotty Toddy mean to you?

That is a good question. When I hear that, I think immediately of the rich tradition of Ole Miss. I think about the tailgating. I think about pageantry. I think about everything that is involved in the atmosphere of a special day. When I hear Hotty Toddy that is what goes through my mind. Everyone having a great time, lots of people dressed up in red and blue, and a lot of happy faces. 

BLUEPRINT OF A WIDEOUT

by JAN MICHAEL HARTELUST photos courtesy UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Imagine being the offensive coordinator for a Division I football team. The system you run is predicated on getting the ball into the hands of the receivers and relying on them to make plays. Now imagine that you have been given the power to create the perfect receiver. What would he look like? Odds are he would look a lot like University of Memphis junior Duke Calhoun.

There are plenty of physical characteristics that go along with being an ideal receiver. How about size? At 6-4 and 200 pounds, Calhoun is a difficult match-up for most cornerbacks, particularly in man-to-man coverage. Speed? He has been clocked at 4.31 in the 40-yard dash. It doesn't take a football genius to know that's fast. But being a great receiver requires more than just physical attributes.

What about unselfishness? Most football fans these days have become accustomed to seeing players like Terrell Owens, Randy Moss and Chad Johnson demanding the ball on almost every play, as if they were the only offensive players on the field. That me-first mentality seems to be lost on Calhoun.

When asked about whether or not he and his fellow receivers had any kind of friendly competition as to who catches more touchdowns, Calhoun quickly tried to dispel that individualistic attitude.

"No. We just go," Calhoun says. "It's a three-player rotation and when your number is called, you've got to rise to the occasion."

That rotation includes the 6'8" touchdown-catching machine Carlos Singleton and his team-high 11 touchdown grabs last season. That number more than doubles the totals

put up by Calhoun and senior Earnest Williams, who each reached the end zone five times. There were five receivers who caught at least 30 passes last season in the pass-heavy Tiger offense.

With so many different receivers being shuttled on and off the field, and with the ball being spread around to all of the different playmakers, it would seem to be pretty difficult to stand out. But, Calhoun has managed to do just that in spite of (and maybe even because of) a knee injury he suffered early in his sophomore season.

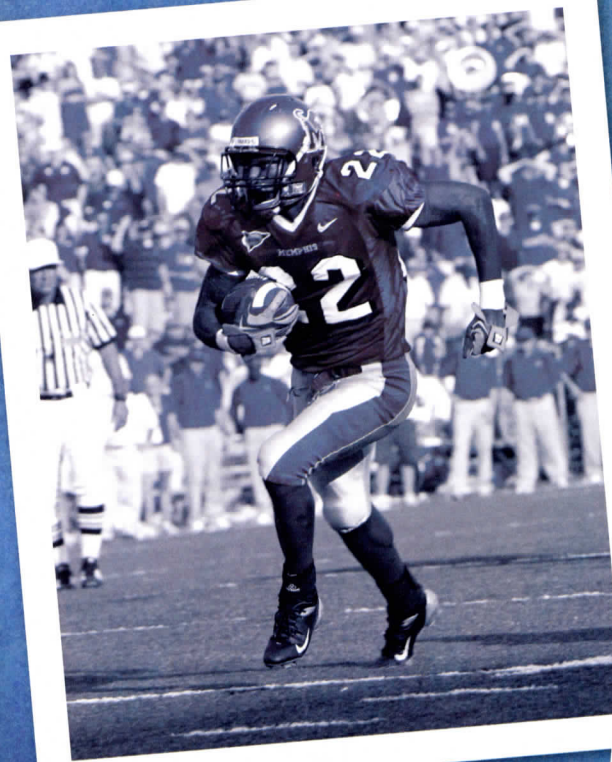
During the Tigers' second game of the 2007 season against Jacksonville State, Calhoun tweaked his knee and finished the game with only one reception for 20 yards. He sat out the next game against UCF, but decided that he would try to play out the rest of the season with a knee brace.

"As a receiver, we've got to be the toughest bunch out there," Calhoun says. "We're like the 300 warriors."

That "300 warrior" mentality is the perfect analogy for the way Calhoun describes the way he and the other Tiger receivers approach their roles on the team. They play as a single unit. No one man is more important than the team. When Calhoun



DUKE CALHOUN



"As a receiver, we've got to be the toughest bunch out there," Calhoun says. "We're like the 300 warriors."



"A lot of schools recruited me, but I wanted to keep the talent in Memphis," Calhoun says. "It's good to play in front of your family and friends. The coaches showed me a lot of love, too."

suffered his injury, he knew his fellow receivers would step up, but he also knew that he could still help his team.

"I just wanted to help the team," Calhoun says. "Anything I had to do to help the team, I was willing to do it."

It was that kind of attitude, along with all of the physical tools, that made him such a highly touted receiver coming out of Raleigh Egypt High School. He was a three-star prospect according to Rivals.com, which also ranked Calhoun as the 33rd best wide receiver in the country and the sixth overall prospect in the state of Tennessee for the 2006 recruiting class. With that kind of attention, it was no surprise that he was heavily recruited by a number of high profile Division I schools, including Ole Miss, UT and Arkansas.

Any time the University of Memphis can land a recruit of that caliber, and beat out BCS rival schools for the services of said recruit, it is a major off-season victory. Most people would think that the only reason such a recruit would pick a smaller school would be for guaranteed playing time, or maybe even because of academic qualifications. But such was not the case for Calhoun. No, he had a few different reasons for suiting up in Tiger blue on Saturdays in the fall.

"A lot of schools recruited me, but I wanted to keep the talent in Memphis," Calhoun says. "It's good to play in front of your family and friends. The coaches showed me a lot of love, too."

What the Tigers got in Calhoun was not only a next-level talent, but more importantly, a next-level talent who wants to play in Memphis and is proud to be a Tiger. That love for Memphis, as well as his desire and determination to do everything he can to help his team, has propelled Calhoun up the University of Memphis record books in most major statistical categories.

Through only two seasons, Calhoun holds the school record for most career 100-yard games with four. He ranks second all-time in single-season receptions and yards, with his

62 receptions for 890 yards playing through injury last season. He ranks eighth in career receptions with 104, and his 1,571 career receiving yards is good enough for seventh all-time. And his 11 career touchdown catches ranks in a tie for eighth on the all-time list. Again, this is only two seasons worth of work.

What's even more amazing about Calhoun's accomplishments is where he could end up on those lists (the top), possibly after only one more season. He needs a mere eight more touchdowns to tie Tavares Gideon for the top spot in career touchdown grabs and only 553 receiving yards to become the all-time leader in career receiving yards. That would put him ahead of such Tiger greats as Isaac Bruce, Russell Copeland and Earnest Gray, who is number the current record holder with 2,123 yards.


Calhoun, who admits he has seen the record books and where he stands, seems more concerned with rocketing down the sidelines rather than up the record books, since he also admits to finding out where EA Sports rated his speed in its latest version of the popular NCAA Football franchise.

"Yeah, I look at the speed," Calhoun says. "I think it's like a 93."

For the record, it's actually a 91, but that can improve. After all, Calhoun says he believes he is both stronger and faster entering his third season. Following off-season knee surgery, he is now 100 percent healthy and excited to start the season with what he considers to be the most talented Tiger team since his arrival on campus.

Entering his third season, Calhoun says he just wants to go out and help his team any way that he can and not concern himself with the records.

"I'm just a basic receiver," Calhoun says. "I just try to make plays."

This basic receiver who just tries to make plays may just be the blueprint for the best Tiger receiver of all time. Just don't expect him to tell you that. 



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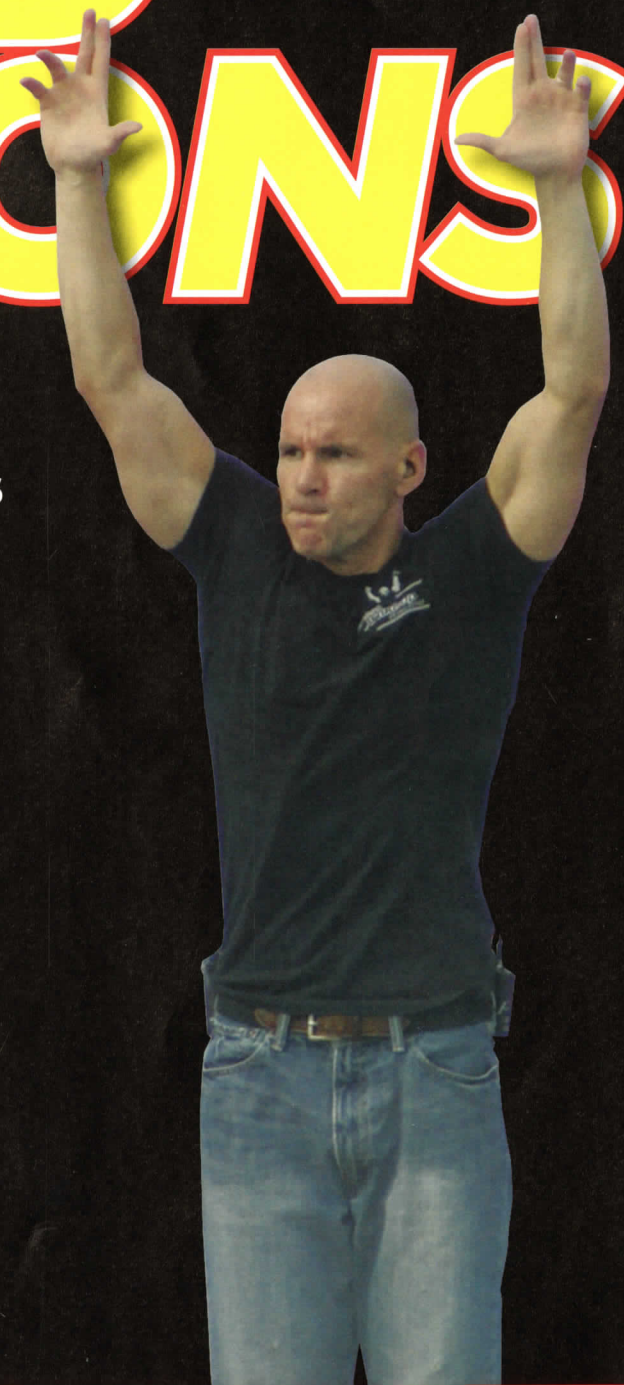
SPEED DEMONS

by ED LAND photos courtesy ARMDROP RACING

Rich Christensen brings the world's largest automotive game show to Memphis.

It's football season, and Memphis Tiger fans are looking forward to a fourth bowl game in the last five seasons under Tommy West. Local SEC enthusiasts, boasting of six or seven nationally ranked teams, are ready to confirm yet another conference team as the BCS National Champion. And Tennessee Titans fans are ready to see what Vince Young can do in his third year of quarterbacking in the NFL.

Of course, not too long from now Mid-South sports aficionados robotically will gravitate towards the collegiate and professional roundball scene. The Tigers are set to follow-up on one of the greatest collegiate seasons a team has ever put together in these United States. The Grizzlies now are stacked with a load of great young talent, sure to excite us throughout the winter, spring, and...dare I write...summer?





But therein lies the problem. Are we that predictable? Can we really just go ahead and chart out the next six to eight months of our sports life? Is that the best we can do? Are we for the most part limited to enjoying the four "major" sports?

Rich Christensen has never thought so, and that's why over the years he has built a drag racing conglomerate that includes TV shows *PINKS*, *PINKS All-Out*, *Pass Time*, *Drag Race High* and his latest endeavor, the non-televised Armdrop Live. This collection of competitions and televised shows gives sports fans, not just racing enthusiasts, something else to look forward to and participate in. Yes, participate! So how did it all go down?

We allow for human error. My arms provide the start signal. For me, for our racers, and for our fans, it's about eyes, ears, hearts and minds. It's a unique twist. We're going back to the old days.

Raised in Iowa, Christensen spent 15 post-collegiate years in Los Angeles as a fitness facility owner/manager, saving the money he'd need to embark upon the reinvention of the sport of drag racing. With an unlimited amount of passion, Christensen pitched network after network his range of ideas. In total, he made several hundred presentations, but was always told "no."

Until Speed, that is. For many years, Speed, formerly Speed Vision and Speed TV, had been on the receiving end of dozens of pitches from Rich. He remembers, "In the big pitch meeting that was gonna move us forward, I said— 'if you give me the shot, I will deliver one of the best shows on your network.'" And because he truly

believed his own words, he was very surprised at the network executives' initial reactions. Says Christensen, "They laughed in my face."

"The fact is that I had nothing and had never set foot on a track, but I knew something was there. I knew this was a huge opportunity," he said. So, as he'd done for years, Rich kept at it in this pivotal final presentation to Speed. And he succeeded. Soon thereafter, his contract with Speed was signed and he embarked upon his journey of providing a new and exciting style of drag racing to fans everywhere.

Unfortunately, Christensen's reinvention of drag racing rubbed many purists of the sport the wrong way. "I

was the most vilified guy ever. I got hate mail from racers, fans, traditionalists... the whole spectrum," Christensen says. Even with the network behind him, Christensen questioned for a while whether this new visibility alone would be enough to ensure long-term stability and success.

"In all of our competitions and series, we take the electronics out. We allow for human error. My arms provide the start signal. For me, for our racers, and for our fans, it's about 'eyes, ears, hearts and minds.' It's a unique twist. We're going back to the old days."

Armdrop Live, like all of Christensen's racing series, provides good racing, a great experience and amazing entertainment. "It's the world's largest automotive game-show," he says. "As long as you've got a ride that can hit



certain speed minimums and can pass a technical safety inspection, you can go out there and race for the big money." Most unique is that Armdrop allows muscle cars, motorcycles, imports, new school cars, old school models, sleds, heck...even snowmobiles, to

Most unique is that Armdrop allows muscle cars, motorcycles, imports, new school cars, old school models, sleds, heck... even snowmobiles, to compete against each other.

compete against each other in bracket competition.

"Think of it as a pick-up football game, but for a lot of money," says Christensen. "With fees paid by all of the entrants, the winning pot can climb up to \$10,000." And everybody has a chance at the prize. "It's every man for


himself. It's anything vs. anything. If you win you move on. Every race matters. Every race counts. Someone's goin' home. Someone's movin' on." This kind of event structure leads to some intense moments at Armdrop

events. And it all starts with Rich Christensen's emotionally-driven, high-intensity pre-race behaviors and mannerisms. It all starts with the arm drop. "If I feel something, I'm gonna rock with it."

Sure thing Rich. Whether it's because of your bald head, your shades, your crazed look, or your cut-up biceps, you'll get no argument here.

The sixth host for this new Armdrop Live series is Memphis Motorsports Park (September 19th and 20th). "It's possible that three of my series come to Memphis, all within a one year period from right now," says Christensen. "Pass Time was already in Memphis. Sponsored in part by NAPA Auto Parts, Armdrop Live is scheduled for mid-September, and *PINKS* will come shortly after." Reflecting on his previous dealings with Memphis Motorsports Park, Christensen says, "We were very impressed with the track at Memphis for *Pass Time*. It was in great shape. From ownership all the way down. Everything. A high-class operation. The owners get it. They know how to do it."

Of course, Christensen did comment about the citizens and fans in Memphis too. "The people are real cool. They were flat out awesome. Obviously, Memphis made an impression on me, 'cause we're comin' back."

On September 19th and 20th, Memphis sports and racing enthusiasts have a reputation to uphold. 

SPORTS ARE FOR EVERYONE

by TAMMY BOLEN photos courtesy MASR

It was the first day of the national competition and Justin was standing in the throwing circle waiting for the official to hand him the discus for the last of his six throws. This would be Justin's last chance at the national record that lay just a few centimeters past his longest throw of the day. He had thrown it past the record length in practice and his coach assured him that he could do it again. "Just stay calm," he called from outside the tall fence enclosure. "Remember your technique and do it just like at home."

Justin took a deep breath then took the metal discus that was offered to him. He went through the steps in his head – feet shoulder width, deep squat, rotate back, head and shoulders up, keep your thumb down – now, HARD AND FAST! The discus sailed out of his hands. He had lifted his thumb. He knew it. No, the spinning blur looked pretty flat as it cut through the air. The spectators were cheering – but they cheered after every release. Ooh, ooh, stay in. It dropped. Just inside the line. It would definitely be close. Justin stood behind the circle waiting as the volunteers ran out carrying the measuring tape for the official. He waited, watching the figure squatted over the tape in front of him. There it was – the signal to bring out the metal tape and the head official. The signal for a new national record!

During the remainder of the week, Justin would take awards in archery, table tennis and swimming. Pretty impressive athleticism, huh? Well, Justin's road to this national competition was not the path of a typical athlete. He hadn't started in competitive athletics until two years earlier when he was 15 years old. It's not that he wasn't interested or capable. He simply wasn't given the opportunity before that time. Justin has always been an athlete. He always rode bikes, swam, and bowled. He always played tennis and golf with his brother and his dad. But until two years ago, Justin never competed against his peers.

Justin, born with cerebral palsy, had never been able to participate on his siblings' sports teams due to the physical limitations of his spastic hemiplegia (a specific form of CP in which one side of the body does not function as well as the other side). So, for fifteen years Justin sat on the sidelines believing he would never participate, let alone be truly competitive, in sports.

Then two years ago, Justin's family found MASR.

FOR FIFTEEN YEARS JUSTIN SAT ON THE SIDELINES BELIEVING HE WOULD NEVER... COMPETE IN SPORTS.

as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, limb loss, spinal cord injury and other diagnosed physical conditions. Young people from Memphis to Jackson and from Millington to Northern Mississippi have learned, like Justin, that there is a venue for them to compete in sports like wheelchair basketball, track & field, swimming, archery and table tennis. The MASR participants have met kids with physical challenges similar to their own here in the Mid-South and at regional and national competitions around the country. They have met them,

challenged them in fair competition, laughed with them and discovered that they can laugh at themselves.

In addition to the joy of competing, Justin and the other MASR athletes find friendships and camaraderie while they're at the events. When the kids are reunited with friends from programs around the country, the atmosphere of "physical challenges en masse" gives them a sense of inclusion and comfort. There are jokes and laughter about the silly questions kids ask like, "why do you walk like that," or "where did you get a purple leg." But more importantly, in this "safe" environment they can even chuckle at the absurd and ignorant remarks from the adults like, "He can't do P.E. today because we're playing basketball and he's in a wheelchair." Of course, they can laugh because after the comment the young man telling the story proceeds to wheel onto the court, sink four buckets and dribble down for a breakaway pass to his best friend. "Ha, ha! Yeah!" followed by robust high fives all around.

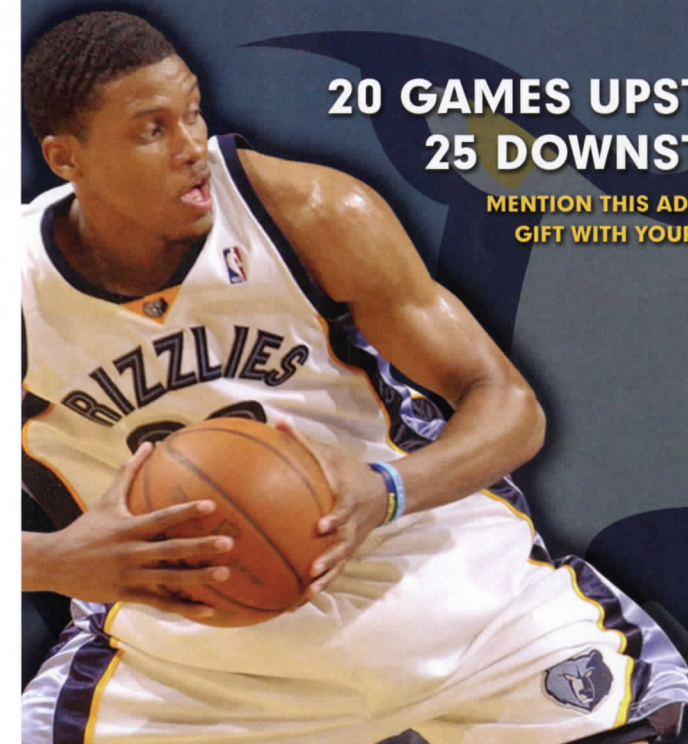
As a mother of one of the MASR athletes, I have always enjoyed eavesdropping on these conversations and hearing the resulting laughter because they remind me that my daughter is gaining more from adaptive sports than the usual fitness, competition, friendship and fun. Add on teamwork, camaraderie and sportsmanship and you've pretty much covered the bases of why we encourage our children to "go out for the team." But for a child with a physical disability and an able mind, you worry about more than just fitness and fun – you worry about self-confidence and a sense of self worth. And nothing waylays a mother's fears better than knowing that her child can laugh at her differences. Almost daily, I thank MASR for that ability. *M*

For more information about MASR's upcoming programs visit www.MASRteam.org.

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SAND TRAP

All things golf - not just the bunkers.

What is Golf Fitness?

by LYNDA LASEN

Your body is the most important piece of equipment you own for your golf game. Golf is an athletic game. So, it is important to condition the body just as other athletes to increase performance and prevent injury.

Typically, golfers focus solely on instruction from their golf professional. This is crucial to developing proper swing mechanics. But, have you ever wondered why your body has trouble doing some of the things you are instructed to do? Does it seem like a struggle to swing a golf club or do you have back, knee or hip pain after you play? If your body is functioning properly, your swing should come easily, naturally and effortlessly. There should not be any pain after a round of golf or practice session on the range.

If your pro tells you to make a 90 degree shoulder turn and you can't, what does he tell you next? If you can't make a decent shoulder turn, it could be a result of poor shoulder mobility or inflexibility. Yet, most golfers will continue to try to force their body to do something it cannot do, thus wreaking more havoc on the body. They become used to struggling through a round of golf and the pain that accompanies 18 holes.


Golf can be a game of pure enjoyment. Mentally, it can tune out all distractions. Socially, it can allow us to engage with other people and we get

to enjoy the great beauty of nature. So, why do we get used to struggling to make a swing or suffering pain afterwards? We don't have to allow such distractions to interfere with our game.

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Bullies Beware

by MINDY BUSH

photo by MINDY BUSH action photo by KEITH D. MILLS

AT 14 YEARS OLD

and 98 pounds in Atlanta, John Trent was a pretty stereotypical bullied kid, despite having trained in Tae Kwon Do since childhood. Then, he learned to wrestle.

Trent, now a professional Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter at 25 and living in Memphis, laughed as he explained how wrestling gave him the confidence he had been lacking. "When kids fight, they don't stand up and bang, they roll around on the ground and try to choke each other out," he said. "Before, I couldn't really do anything

about the bullying because everyone was so much bigger than me. Once I learned to wrestle, though, I felt safer and more confident."

After high school, Trent said he branched out and tried a free Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu class at a gym then known as LA Boxing in Atlanta. "With takedowns, I did well since I had a wrestling background, but for the groundwork, I was paired with a girl who almost choked me out. I thought to myself, 'Yeah, I need to learn this,'" Trent said.

And learn he did. Trent now holds a professional MMA record of three wins and three losses, and all of his wins were by submission. Don't discount his standup game, though, either. He's also the Memphis Fitness Kickboxing instructor at Memphis Judo & Jiu-Jitsu, which means he's skilled enough to teach



"FROM AN OUTSIDER'S STANDPOINT, IT'S GOING TO BE MORE PRIMAL, LIKE KILL OR BE KILLED. TO THE TRAINED EYE, THOUGH, IT'S A COMPETITION BETWEEN TWO RESPECTABLE ATHLETES."

technique to brand new kickboxers.

For a guy who was bullied as an adolescent to end up earning money competing in a combat sport, it begs the question about participating in a sport many would say reeks of brutality. Trent simply doesn't see it that way. He said, "I see it more as a competition based on different skill sets. It's a mix of striking and grappling more so than violence. From an outsider's standpoint, it's going to be more primal, like kill or be killed. To the trained eye, though, it's a competition between two respectable athletes. There's no shame in it, no anger. I've even fought friends before. We were friends before the fight, mortal enemies during the fight, and friends again when it was done."

But Trent is more than just a fighter. "I bet you don't know any other professional MMA fighter who is also an Eagle Scout... Or any who were a representative for the United Way in high school," Trent said.

Trent is currently preparing for his next fight, which is scheduled for October 10, 2008, in Atlanta, where he will be fighting out of Memphis Judo & Jiu-Jitsu. *M*



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The pros tell you how they do it.

Derek Landmesser: How to Play Hockey for THREE DECADES

by ANDRE T. JOHNSON photo courtesy MISSISSIPPI RIVERKINGS

Derek Landmesser has been around long enough to know what to expect. Granted, this native Canadian has adjusted quite nicely to living in the South for the past eight years. However, for a veteran professional hockey player, he realizes that living here year-round essentially has given way to a slight disadvantage in terms of prepping for a 65-game regular season. Landmesser is one of at least four Mississippi RiverKing players who pass up routine offseason ice workouts only to put up with this area's sweltering July and August heat. But, this Central Hockey League standout doesn't spend his offseasons catching a Mississippi tan.

Whenever he breaks from helping broaden aspiring hockey players' skills as director of a local youth hockey league, Landmesser routinely devotes time for offseason workouts that have helped him to emerge as one of the CHL's most-feared defenseman in recent years.

While he believes spending valuable time on the ice in the offseason is the ideal way to staying fit for the fast-tempo-style of play that hockey welcomes, he says his regular conditioning sessions have been a key ingredient to a professional career that extends back to 1996. In fact, the way Landmesser sees it, the amount of time pro athletes devote to offseason conditioning could go a long way to determining how early an professional athlete retires.

"That's a very important part of the game," Landmesser explained. "As you get older, you have to maintain the conditioning because the game is a little harder. Number one, it's your job. So you have to be ready at all times. Whatever advantage people can get on you, they will. And if you aren't careful, the game can pass you by."

Sure, Landmesser, who is originally from Thunder Bay, Ontario, has enjoyed a prosperous 11-year career that includes being a member of the 'Kings' President's Cup Championship squad five seasons ago and a slew of CHL accolades. But one thing he doesn't want, he says, is an out-of-shape, washed-up frame to be the cause of his calling it a career, something he feels could easily be avoided with proper offseason preparation.

"I played with a guy my first couple of years (as a pro) and he was a great talent," Landmesser recalls. "He was an older guy, probably 32, and one of the best defenseman in the league. His talent was there, but his physique wasn't. He played about

12 years, but with the talent he had, he could of played three or four more years, easily. He's been retired for a while because he's in his 40s."


Of course, the 33-year-old Landmesser isn't, by any means, implying that he plans to play professionally well into his 40s. However, one thing he doesn't want is to hang up his skates prematurely. How else to explain why, like a number

"If you aren't careful, the game can pass you by."

of local professional athletes, he's become a fixture at DeSoto Athletic Club in Southaven? Whether he's spending one-on-one sessions with the team's certified athletic trainer or participating in individual hour-long workouts, Landmesser's primary objective is to make certain he's just as physically fit as the RiverKing players who spend their summer months training on ice.

For example, most of Landmesser's conditioning includes what he calls "shocking his body." That is when he breaks up his 60-minute workout into three 20-minute mini-sessions: 20 minutes of bike riding, 20 minutes on the tread mill, and 20 minutes of Stairmaster, a routine that requires him to move stair cases. Normally, this hour-long session is something he does three to four times a week in the offseason. He adds a day or two once the season begins. Landmesser and the 'Kings report to camp October 5 and open the October 17 campaign by welcoming Wichita to the DeSoto Civic Center.

"For our sport, the best training is on the ice," Landmesser says. "Living here, we're at a little disadvantage because we don't have any ice to train. So we make the best of it by working extra special hard."

That's because this four-time CHL All Star, who's been playing competitive hockey for nearly three decades, has been around long enough to know what to expect. 



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ON THE RUN

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IRON MISTAKES

by DOUG RUDDLE

The initial Ironman race was set amidst the mesmerizing beauty of Hawaii. The only reason it came into existence was due to the lack of a conscious awareness of the extreme challenge and the fact there were two male egos at stake. There was a debate in a local bar as to who was the better athlete. So, over a few adult beverages the Ironman racing series was born. Since the inauguration of the first Ironman, the popularity of the sport of triathlon has grown exponentially in popularity. Many newbies to the sport may not be aware of some of the essential mistakes that can severely hinder progress.


MISTAKE#1 *Not building a strong core.* Your core strength consists of much more than abs. It is total muscle balance. A large part of injuries in our sport are due to muscle imbalance. If you have strong quads and weak hamstrings you put your back at risk for injury. If you have quads that aren't strong enough to hold up to hard running workouts you're at risk for knee injuries. The list goes on and on. A weight program that addresses total muscle balance is key to longevity and should be established during the early season and maintained throughout the year.

MISTAKE#2 *Skipping flexibility exercises.* Without a proper stretching routine we lose our ability to function in an efficient manner. There are numerous ideas out there about techniques and exercises that can give you back a full range of motion. Yoga is a great way to learn more about the benefits of flexibility and a great way to stay motivated.

MISTAKE#3 *Not developing a strong aerobic base.* You must have a solid base to build upon. It is not wise to go out and begin doing hard and fast workouts without having a foundation that can support the strenuous efforts. There are two basic energy systems you use when training; anaerobic and aerobic. Unfortunately, you can not build both your aerobic and anaerobic systems at the same time very easily. The idea behind base training is to train your aerobic energy system specifically and solely. Why is this important? The more work you perform aerobically, or in the presence of oxygen, the more efficient you are. Prolonged aerobic training produces muscular adaptations that improve oxygen transport to the muscles, reduce the rate of lactate formation, improve the rate of lactate removal, and increase energy production and utilization. These adaptations occur slowly over time. Base building generally takes around 12 weeks depending on current fitness levels. Stick with it and you'll reap the rewards.

MISTAKE#4 *Making your first race an Ironman.* My first race was an Olympic distance race called Memphis in May. The Olympic or international distance race is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ the distance of an Ironman. I finished the race and did just fine, however, I would have been much more prepared had I completed a sprint distance race before hand. These shorter distance races are crucial to the preparation phase to an Ironman. You get invaluable experience and gain knowledge that you would not otherwise have obtained if you make your first race an Ironman. You are able to learn how your nerves are going to be the morning of the race, you can establish your race day routine and it is awesome training as well.

MISTAKE#5 *Lack of knowledge about hydration and nutrition.* Before race day you should have experimented with different combinations of fluids and solids. NEVER do something on race day that you haven't done during your training. Know what works best for you, and do that on race day. Ironman, more than any other distance race, requires special attention to nutritional needs. If you don't fuel correctly you're going to have a tough day.

MISTAKE#6 *No Balance.* Triathletes are driven people and this can cause an athlete to focus completely on the goal, race, or season. The sport of triathlon is a great sport and requires dedication. However, if you neglect the things in life that are just as important or even more important then you will not truly be a successful athlete. It is my opinion that those who succeed in a sport, business or personal endeavor are those that are balanced. You put those things first that belong first. Distribute your time according to your priorities. Relationships, spirituality, health and your career are all vital to life and deserve their own specified attention. Be healthy, be friendly, be successful and be balanced. 



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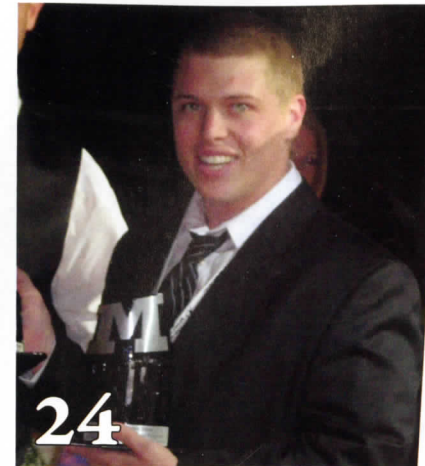
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TAILGATING

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The Voice of the Rebels

by JACK EATON

One of the great gigs I had in my broadcasting career was my stint as the "Voice of the Rebels." I was barely getting started back in 1959, and there I was with the plum job in Memphis sportscasting. How I got the job is a story in itself...

Stan Torgerson, my boss at WMC, had the job and was doing very well. All of a sudden, a deal came along that was too good for him to pass up. In those days, Jax Beer would come into a market and use a ten minute sports show on TV as their main advertising vehicle. Channel 5 was happy to sell Jax ten minutes during the late news. Jax auditioned lots of people, but Torgerson got the job and therein lies the rub.

Coca-Cola sponsored the Ole Miss radio broadcasts and, of course, Jax was the sponsor on TV.

Back in those days, Coke considered every liquid as competition. So, Torgerson had to decide which way to go. Jax Beer or Coca-Cola. He could not work for both. Torgerson quit the Coke gig because it paid a lot less than the \$125 per week he got from Jax.

Torgerson would later learn that he made a poor choice. Jax Beer would cancel their TV show and Stan would be left high and dry. Some days you get the bear and some days the bear gets you.

Anyway, a new broadcaster had to be found to do the Rebs on WMC radio.

After a short, unsuccessful stint by Farley Salmon, one of the Johnny Rebs top QB's in the early 50's, Coke set out to find another play-by-play guy. At that time, I was a disc jockey on WMC and I was doing the sports on WMCT (we

weren't WMC-TV until 1967). I had been doing high school games for a couple of years and, son-of-a-gun, I was picked for the job.

I had never done play-by-play of a college game. To say that I was a little apprehensive was putting it mildly. I read a lot about Ole Miss history, talked with Coach Johnny Vaught and generally made myself at home of the Oxford campus.

John Adamson, my neighbor, and Reg Germany, a friend who had played and coached football, came over and we watched the game reels from the year before. The three of us had a blast and learned a lot about Ole Miss football. Boy, oh, boy. That was a heady time.

Then, it came time to go to work. My first game was in Houston, Texas. We were playing the University of Houston in Rice Stadium and I was uptight. My "color" man, Bob Swisher, my mentor, got to the game late and this caused Torgerson, still my boss at WMC, much unrest. The phone rang in the booth about 20 minutes before air time and it was Stan. He noted that Swisher had not been on the high school broadcast the night before and asked sarcastically, "Was he too drunk to do the game.?"

"No," I answered. "He attended his mothers funeral."

Dead silence on the other end. Then, "OK. Have a good broadcast."

The 1959 Ole Miss football team is, perhaps, the greatest Rebel team ever. They were a special group. I had a great time doing their games. More than once, I have thought about that magical season.

I continued as the Ole Miss broadcaster thru the 1963 season. After that, Memphis State coach, Billy "Spook" Murphy, threw his weight around and demanded that I be moved to his games. So, Coke cancelled their Ole Miss broadcast on WMC, and moved the Memphis State games from WHBQ to WMC. I loved doing the Tigers games, but there will always be a warm spot in my heart for Ole Miss. After all, they gave me my start. *ME*

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